

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOL)	A child who is absent from his/her placement without legal permission from the Department and/or court.
Abuse or Neglect of a Child	<p>The legal basis of any Department of Family Services (DFS) involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical or mental injury of a non-accidental nature. • Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. • Negligent treatment or maltreatment, as set forth in NRS 432B.140, of a child caused or allowed by a person responsible for his/her welfare under circumstances indicating that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm. • A child is not abused, nor is his/her health or welfare harmed or threatened, for the sole reason that his parent or guardian, in good faith, selects and depends upon nonmedical treatment for such child, if such treatment is recognized and permitted under the laws of treatment. (This subsection does not limit the court in ensuring that a child receives a medical examination and treatment pursuant to NRS 62.231.)
Admissions Specialists	Department staff who provide centralized clerical and administrative support for emergency placements, including verifying placement clearance and entering all Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) data.
Applicant	A person applying to be a provider of foster care, including a resident of a foster home who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or a volunteer or an employee of a foster home who will be providing foster care.
Application Case File	The compilation of all materials required for licensing. This includes forms and documents submitted by the applicant and studies and evaluations completed by the licensing representative.
Bureau of Licensure and Certification (BLC)	Protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality healthcare by way of licensing, regulation enforcement, and education.
Caregiver	Any person responsible for a child's welfare, including (1) the child's biological parent(s), guardian, custodian, foster parent, stepparent with whom the child lives, or an adult person continually or regularly found in the same household as the child or (2) a person directly responsible for the child or serving as a volunteer for or employed in a public or private home, institution, or facility where the child lives.

Term	Definition
Caregiver Support Services (CSS) Liaison	A licensed foster parent who is employed by or under contract with the Department to provide peer support and education to other foster parents.
Caregiver Support Services (CSS) Specialist	Provides short-term interventions, to include placement preservation and support, to resource families at designated and specific times and on an as-needed basis at the request of the caregiver.
Case Manager	General term for the worker responsible for the case; the case manager can be from permanency or in-home.
Central Registry	A registry maintained by the state of Nevada of child abuse and neglect perpetrators.
Change in Levels of Care	Changes in placement type or changes in service authorization requested by the case manager. Movement to Higher Level of Care (HLOC) or special healthcare needs requires information from medical or clinical experts to support the need for an increase or decrease in specialized supportive services and/or placement type related to supervision and/or structure.
Child	Anyone under the age of eighteen (18).
Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting System (CANS)	A database within UNITY that stores historical data for users to search by name.
Child & Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS)	A rating scale that assesses a child's or youth's (ages six [6] to seventeen [17]) degree of impairment in day-to-day functioning due to emotional, behavioral, psychological, psychiatric, or substance use problems.
Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS)	An instrument designed to independently determine recommendations for level of care based on a child's or adolescent's functioning, information about which is gathered by the professional while he/she performs a clinical assessment.
Child Advocacy and Scoring Intensity Instrument (CASII)	A tool to determine the appropriate level-of-care placement for children or adolescents age seven (7) or older. CASII links a clinical assessment with standardized levels of care and has a method for matching the two.
Child Care Facility	An establishment operated and maintained for the purpose of furnishing care on a temporary or permanent basis, during the day or overnight, to five (5) or more children under eighteen (18) years of age, if compensation is received for the care of any of those children. This includes any entity that delivers these services (e.g., child care facilities, child care institutions, outdoor youth programs).
Child Care Institutions	Congregate shelter care or residential treatment facilities.

Term	Definition
Child Development Specialist (CDS)	Department staff member who provides developmentally appropriate supervision, care, and comfort to children on the Child Haven Campus. CDSs work in the Emergency Reception Center (ERC), the Child Haven Cottages, and the visitation program.
Child and Family Team Meeting (CFT)	A gathering of family members, friends, fictive kin, community members, service providers, and other interested parties who join together to strengthen the family's capacity to provide for the safety, well-being, and permanency of children. In addition to participating in key case decisions, the CFT serves as an important support for families.
Child Haven Active Teaching Treatment Approach (CHATTA)	A level of accomplishment attained by children with longer stays at Child Haven who have earned a net total of 150,000 positive points, been nominated by Child Haven staff, and exhibited knowledge of the CHATTA program. Having this status provides the child with (1) opportunities to continue to earn positive points, (2) availability of special privileges, and (3) extra outings.
Child Haven Campus	The location of several DFS programs and services, including: a congregate shelter care (Child Haven), the Receiving Team, the ERC, and a Visitation Center.
Child Haven Shelter	A licensed and publicly operated facility that provides emergency placement for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.
Child Protective Services (CPS)	Services for protecting children from abuse and/or neglect.
Child Welfare Service	Pursuant to NRS 432B.044, this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective services, including, without limitation, investigations of abuse or neglect, assessments, and in-home services. • Foster care services, including, without limitation, maintenance and special services, as defined in NRS 432.010. • Services related to adoption.
Children With Special Healthcare Needs	Children who have or are at increased risk for either acute or chronic physical ailments and require medical care and related services of a type or amount beyond those required by children generally and children who are medically stable but require skilled nursing care, specialized therapy, and specialized medical equipment and supplies to enhance or sustain life.
Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)	A center that provides a neutral, child-friendly setting for children where they can be interviewed about reports of child abuse (particularly sexual abuse), have forensic medical examinations, and receive appropriate therapeutic services. CAC offers a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach involving police, prosecutors, CPS investigators, and therapist and medical personnel working together as a team.

Term	Definition
Collateral Contacts	Persons, other than a person who is a participant in the case, who the agency must or may contact in the course of licensing, a child protective investigation, or ongoing case management of an open child or family case.
Concurrent Planning	An approach in which the permanency case manager works with the family toward a primary permanency goal (usually reunification) while, at the same time, implementing an alternative permanency plan. This approach speeds the achievement of permanency for children from families that are unable to rectify, in a timely way, the problems leading to a child(ren)'s removal.
Congregate Shelter Care	A licensed child care facility that provides emergency placement for abused, neglected, or abandoned children. May be either publicly or privately operated.
Consanguinity	Term defining the degree of relationship by blood among family members. A relative within the third degree of a child includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult siblings. • Grandparents. • Great-grandparents. • Aunts and uncles, including spouses of aunts and uncles.
CPS Investigation	The process by which the Department assesses and investigates reports of child abuse and neglect to determine which reports are substantiated and which children require protective action from the Department because they are unsafe or at risk.
CPS Investigator	A Department worker who conducts CPS investigations.
Day Care	Supplemental parental care away from the child's own home during any portion of the day but for less than 24 hours. This may be either daytime or nighttime care.
Department of Family Services (DFS)	The agency of Clark County authorized under federal and state law that provides or arranges for necessary child welfare services.
Differential Response	Upon receipt of an abuse/neglect report, when it is determined that an investigation is not warranted, the report may be assigned (depending on criteria) to a Family Resource Center (FRC) that has entered into a written agreement with the agency for the purpose of conducting assessments and providing appropriate services that will support, preserve, and improve the child's safety and family's well-being and functioning.
Diligent Search	Identifying, locating, and contacting noncustodial parents and other relatives in order to assess their interest in providing a temporary or permanent placement for or adopting a child prior to or when the child is placed in substitute care.
Emergency Medical or Clinical Care	Upon contact with the child, the case manager observes that the child has been or is in the process of being seriously

Term	Definition
	harmed. Action must be immediate and will typically involve an evaluation at a medical emergency room and/or evaluation at a behavioral health hospital by a qualified professional.
Emergency Placement	The case manager has agreed that the child requires an immediate protective placement as a result of removal due to child abuse or neglect, placement disruption, or homelessness.
Emergency Reception Center (ERC)	Provides child care, supervision, and stabilization services for the child until placement for the child is effected. It is located on the Child Haven Campus.
Emergency Response Team (ERT)	A team of investigators who are assigned to cover specific hours outside of regular business hours.
Emergency Shelter Care	Short-term care, usually not to exceed 30 days, provided until long-range plans can be made for a child requiring immediate protective placement.
Family	One (1) or more adults and children related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing in the same household.
Family Foster Home	A home that provides stable, nurturing, out-of-home care for one (1) to six (6) placed children under the age of eighteen (18). This includes family homes in which a child(ren) is cared for pending the completion of adoption or until he/she can return to his/her parents. The primary caregiver in the family foster home provides twenty-four (24) -hour care and is not a paid staff member.
Family TRACS	Predecessor to Nevada's automated child welfare information system, UNITY.
Fictive Kin	Individuals unrelated by either birth or marriage who have an emotionally significant relationship that would take on the characteristics of a family relationship.
Foreseeable Danger	A family situation or household member's behavior that is determined to be out of control (unpredictable/chaotic) in the presence of a vulnerable child and has implications for severe harm within the near future. Near future is a time qualification for foreseeable danger, and it implies that a threat to child safety is inevitable or imminent. In addition, near future suggests that with a degree of certainty, the prudent judgment is the condition(s) that threatens child safety will reemerge quickly from the point of initial contact with a family through the next couple of weeks. The assessment of foreseeable danger is as critical as present danger, with the only difference being how the safety threat manifests itself and when it is active. Foreseeable danger usually only becomes apparent throughout the course of the investigation and ongoing service delivery. Diligent efforts must be made to gather sufficient family data in order to assess family functioning.

Term	Definition
Foster Home	Inclusive term used to describe both family foster home and group foster home.
Group Foster Home	A foster home placement licensed by Clark County to accept seven (7) to fifteen (15) children. This type of foster care is acceptable only for those children for whom no foster family care is currently available. Additional services and supports may be offered to support a particular child in this setting.
Health Passport	A document initiated during medical screening when a child enters placement; it lists such health information as immunizations and allergies.
Healthy Kids	A collaborative effort with the Southern Nevada Health District, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services. A general health screening is provided to children moving into placement.
Higher Level of Care (HLOC)	Privately managed placement options for children with behavioral health needs and risks, including family foster homes, group foster homes, and residential treatment facilities.
Hotline Screening	The process of determining whether a referral will be accepted as a report of child maltreatment based on whether the referral falls within the guidelines established by state law, regulations, or policies and whether the agency has an appropriate role with the child and family.
Hotline Worker	A Department worker who receives and screens referrals made to the Hotline.
Impending Danger	A family situation or household member's behavior that is determined to be out of control and will likely result in serious harm to a child.
Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	American Indians and Alaska Native villagers are American citizens who are offered special protections encapsulated in federal laws which supersede state and local laws.
Information Collection Standard (ICS)	Refers to the six (6) critical areas used for assessing and analyzing family strengths, risk of maltreatment, and child safety. These areas are as follows: (1) surrounding circumstances accompanying the maltreatment; (2) child functioning on a daily basis; (3) adult functioning with respect to daily life management and general adaptation (including mental health functioning and substance usage); (4) disciplinary approaches used by the parent; (5) the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices; and (6) the extent of maltreatment.
Information and Referral	When the Hotline receives a call that does not meet the criteria to be screened in for investigation and does not fit any of the categories of non-abuse/neglect situations requiring Department intervention but in response to which the Hotline worker provides the caller with information responsive to the caller's concern.

Term	Definition
Initial Medical Screening	Conducted by a registered nurse or physician and received by children entering Department care but before placement. The initial medical screening may be conducted at a medical facility or at ERC.
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)	Statutory law in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands designed to ensure protection and services to children placed across state lines. The compact establishes uniform legal and administrative procedures governing the interstate placement of children.
Kinship Care	Formal foster care provided by extended family members. This term is used interchangeably with “relative caregiver.”
Kinship Care Liaison	A trained and experienced relative caregiver who is employed or under contract with the Department to provide peer support and education to other relative caregivers.
Level-of-Care Exploration	Period in which a child’s medical and behavioral needs have been identified to determine an appropriate placement (i.e., regular foster home, medically trained foster home, therapeutic foster home, or residential treatment center). The case manager may recommend placement; however, the placement team explores and presents options to the case manager for consideration.
Licensing Compliance Officer	A person employed by the Department who investigates complaints against licensed homes and facilities and makes recommendations for corrective actions or a change in license status.
Licensing Disposition	Final outcome of a license application.
Licensing Representative	A person employed by the Department who accepts, manages, evaluates, and makes recommendations regarding licensure of family and group foster homes and the certification of private agencies.
Licensing Waiver	An administrative action of the Department to waive specific standards in licensing law and regulation to allow a licensed foster family home to care for a particular child outside of the terms of its current license.
Mandated Reporter	A person required by law to report to the Hotline any child known to him/her in a professional capacity that he/she has reasonable cause to believe has been abused or neglected (see the Hotline Procedures for specifics).

Term	Definition
Mandt System	The Mandt System teaches a graded system of alternatives using the least amount of external management necessary in all situations. The philosophy of The Mandt System is based on the principle that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. The Mandt approach teaches non-pain-inducing techniques with a number of intervention approaches.
Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP)	A comprehensive preparation program for prospective foster and adoptive parents. This includes the formal MAPP training curriculum.
Multiple Reports	More than one (1) report, or a history of reports, alleging child maltreatment regarding the same family.
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)	A computerized index of criminal justice information (i.e., criminal record history information, fugitives, stolen properties, missing persons). The index is available to federal, state, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies and is operational twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
Near Fatality	Verification by a licensed medical professional that a child is in critical condition or that the child's prognosis for survival is poor.
Negligent Treatment or Maltreatment	A child has been abandoned; is without proper care, control, and supervision; or lacks the subsistence, education, shelter, medical care, or other care necessary for his/her well-being because of the faults or habits of the person responsible for his/her welfare or the person's neglect or refusal to provide these types of care when able to do so.
Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)	The body of state regulation that operationalizes state law.
Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Allegation System	Specific definitions of child abuse and neglect focused on the harm or the threat of harm to the child.
Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect System (NCANS)	The Nevada statewide system for the collection of information concerning the abuse or neglect of a child. NCANS is a part of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).
Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS)	The state's umbrella criminal justice information system comprising several repositories, including the state's criminal history, carry concealed weapons, protection orders, dangerous offender notification, and sex offender databases.
Nevada Early Childhood Services Eligibility Tool (NECSET)	A framework for defining the appropriate character and intensity of services and resources to meet the needs of young children ages zero (0) to six (6).
Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA)	The assessment process used to determine the risk and safety status of children involved with Nevada child welfare agencies. NIA includes the safety assessment, the risk assessment, and the NIA summary.
Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)	The body of state law in its entirety.
NOMADS	The Nevada welfare case management system.

Term	Definition
Operator	The person to whom a license to operate a family or group foster home is issued and under whose auspices the foster home operates. The operator of a group foster home may be the same person as the director.
Participant	A term in UNITY that refers to any individual associated with a case (e.g., alleged child victim, mother, father).
Permanency Case Manager	A Department worker responsible for the cases of children in the Department's care and custody.
Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sprain or dislocation. • Damage to cartilage. • A fracture of a bone or the skull. • An intracranial hemorrhage or injury to another internal organ. • A burn or scalding. • A cut, laceration, puncture, or bite. • Permanent or temporary disfigurement. • Permanent or temporary loss or impairment of a part or organ of the body.
Placement Clearance	A review of the current status of the planned placement that includes: (1) a successfully completed background safety check of a selected relative home, or (2) a check of the Licensing and Placement Preference database for all other types of substitute care.
Placement Inventory	A structured interview with a child for the purpose of identifying a placement resource.
Placement Specialist	Department staff member responsible for the identification, selection, clearance, and authorization of substitute care placement. The placement specialist may be located on the Receiving Team or Placement Team.
Placement Stabilization	A set of activities to mobilize supports and services for the child and/or caregiver to preserve the current placement.
Placing Agent	A DFS case manager or placement specialist.
Planned Placement	A placement change or a change in services authorization on a nonemergency basis.
Present Danger	An immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition that is actively occurring or is in the process of occurring and will likely result in serious harm to a child.
Prior Authorization Request (PAR)	A set of prescribed processes and forms that are the basis of Medicaid eligibility.

Term	Definition
Protective Capacities	A parent's or caregiver's strengths or abilities to control existing safety threats, prevent additional safety threats from arising, or stop risk influences from creating a safety threat.
Protective Capacity Summary	A summary of the licensing representative's Home Study evaluation of the prospective caregiver home's capacity for the purposes of placement identification and selection.
Protective Custody (PC)	A legal status that occurs when a child is removed from the care of his/her parent(s) or caregiver(s) by a designated Department employee, a police officer, or a probation officer because the child is found to be in imminent danger. A child may be in PC for seventy-two (72) hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, without a judicial order.
Protective Substitute Care Placement	The act of removing a child based on a threat to his/her safety and well-being that takes into account federal and state requirements and child welfare best practices.
Putative Father	A man who may be the child's biological father, but who is not married to the child's mother on or before the date of the child's birth and who has not established his paternity through legal proceedings.
Receiving Team	A centralized staffing structure to manage emergency placements that operates from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m., seven (7) days a week. Core members of the team include the supervisor, placement specialists, and admissions specialists. The Receiving Team has immediate access to: the ERC, NCIC-authorized agent, and medical staff.
Relative Care Home Study	Initial assessment of the potential caregiver's home for safety and available space for the purpose of emergency placement. Components include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver assessment. • References. • Background check. • Home safety checklist.
Relative Caregiver	Formal foster care provided by extended family members.
Report to the Hotline	A referral becomes a report upon the assignment to CPS for response or assessment.
Resident of Foster Home	Any person who presents to others the foster home as his/her home. This may include receiving mail and telephone messages, keeping clothing in the home, occasionally sleeping on the premises, using the facilities on a regular basis for such activities as bathing, inhabiting a recreational vehicle or other dwelling on the property, and having regular and unlimited access to the home.

Term	Definition
Residential Treatment	A licensed child care institution that offers board, supervision, and specialized treatment for children. Placement in these settings is reserved for youth who demonstrate significant clinical or behavioral issues that cannot be managed in a home setting.
Residential Treatment Facilities (Staff- or Hardware-Secured)	A child care institution of seven (7) or more beds that offers a twenty-four (24) -hour, intensive, and structured treatment program for children with SED and/or developmental disabilities. These programs must meet Clark County licensing requirements for treatment foster care in Clark County and state requirements for child care institutions. There are strict legal requirements for placement in a hardware-secured child care institution. There are additional administrative and legal requirements for placing a child in an out-of-state residential treatment facility.
Resource Referral	A request made with the intent to receive information on resources from the child welfare agency or to receive a referral for resources and/or services. This does not require recording in UNITY.
Response Priority	<p>For all reports screened in for investigation, the Hotline worker must assign a response priority. The response priority is assigned according to the immediacy of the threat to the safety of the child(ren) involved in the report. It is based on information provided by the referral source concerning the nature of the alleged abuse or neglect, the caregiver's behavior, and the vulnerability of the child(ren). The four (4) response priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 – Immediate response. • Priority 2 – Twenty-four (24) -hour response. • Priority 3 – Seventy-two (72) -hour response. • Priority 3 – Differential response.
Risk Assessment	The process for identifying families whose behavior or condition creates the likelihood that children are likely to abused or neglected some time in the future.
Safety Assessment	The process for evaluating family functioning to determine whether there are negative family conditions that are out of control and therefore pose an imminent safety threat (present or impending danger) to a child. Children are unsafe when it is likely that they will be seriously harmed in the near future without child protection intervention.
Safety Plan	A temporary, short-term, voluntary intervention designed to control caregiver behaviors and family conditions that have caused children to be unsafe.

Term	Definition
Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)	Emotional disturbance is one (1) of thirteen (13) disabilities outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 1912(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 102-321, defines children with a serious emotional disturbance as those who are from birth to age of majority and have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> . For the individual to be deemed emotionally disturbed, it must be determined that the child's condition results in functional impairment, substantially interfering with one (1) or more major life activities, such as the abilities to eat, bathe, and dress oneself or the abilities to function effectively in social, familial, and educational contexts.
Serious Harm	A threat of or evidence of serious physical injury, sexual abuse, significant pain or mental suffering, extreme fear or terror, extreme impairment or disability, death, substantial impairment, or risk of substantial impairment to the child's mental or physical health or development.
Sexual Abuse	A child has been sexually abused when he/she has been sexually molested, penetrated, or exploited; infected with a sexually transmitted disease; or placed in a sexually dangerous position by an adult responsible for his/her care (see the Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Allegation System).
Shared Computer Operations for Protection and Enforcement (SCOPE)	A shared system for protection and enforcement; a twenty-four (24) -hour online system that provides criminal and noncriminal information on individuals. Access to DFS is limited to Nevada residents. SCOPE is under the control of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD).
Sibling	One's brother or sister with whom one shares at least one (1) parent.
Subject of a Report	During a CPS investigation, an alleged victim or an alleged perpetrator.
Substantiation	A report made pursuant to NRS 432B.220 was investigated and credible evidence of the abuse or neglect exists.
Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC)	Assigned contact from DFS who corresponds with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) regarding access to all criminal justice information.
Treatment Foster Care	Family foster homes, foster/adopt homes, or group foster homes that have met the applicable minimum licensing standards and additional requirements in order to care for children who require special care for physical, mental, or emotional challenges.
Treatment Foster Homes	A family or group foster home placement licensed by Clark County and Medicaid-approved to offer rehabilitative mental health services delivered by trained and qualified staff to improve the mental health and life skills of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

Term	Definition
Unknowns	When the first and last names of the primary caregiver are unknown to the caller, the Hotline worker must generate an unknown referral in UNITY.
Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY)	Nevada's statewide automated child welfare information system.
Unsubstantiation	A report made pursuant to NRS 432B.220 that was investigated and there is no reasonable cause to believe that the abuse or neglect exists. The term includes efforts made by an agency that provides child welfare services to prove or disprove an allegation of abuse or neglect that the agency is unable to prove because it was unable to locate the child or the person responsible for the welfare of the child (NAC 432B.170(7)(b)).
Vulnerable Child	A child not able to self-protect or who is dependent on others for protection and basic needs. Vulnerability considers the age, size, and physical, cognitive, and emotional development of the child, as well as variations in functioning due to circumstances or locations.
Wraparound	Wraparound is a philosophy of care that includes a defined planning process conducted with the child and family that results in a unique set of community services and natural supports individualized for that child and family in order to achieve a positive set of outcomes.